

**From:** Hawa, Raed  
**Sent:** April 26, 2021 7:48 AM  
**Subject:** CAUT motion and my Professorial Rounds

Dear Dean Young,

The Canadian Association of University Teachers (CAUT), an organization that represents 72,000 teachers, librarians, researchers and academic professionals from across the country, has passed an unanimous motion to censure the University of Toronto Administration for breaches of academic freedom. The action was taken following an investigation by the CAUT's Academic Freedom and Tenure Committee into the decision by the Dean of the Faculty of Law to terminate the hiring of a preferred candidate, Dr. Valentina Azarova, for the directorship of the International Human Rights Program (IHRP). This hiring process is also the subject of the University of Toronto Faculty Association (UTFA) grievance under the *Memorandum of Agreement* between UTFA and the UofT Administration. UTFA is pursuing a second related group grievance on behalf of a number of members of the Faculty of Law.

At the crux of the motion by CAUT and the two grievances is the allegation that the University Administration breached the core principles of academic freedom and collegial governance.

I am also aware of President Gertler's responses to the CAUT decision that he shared with CAUT and the University of Toronto Faculty at large.

In light of the CAUT decision to censure the University of Toronto for its role in violating freedom of speech and terminating the hiring of Dr. Valentina Azarova on the basis of her human rights advocacy, I must regretfully cancel my Professorial Rounds on May 19, 2021.

I hope the university takes accountability and provides meaningful restitution for the harm it has caused, so that those of us who are proud members of the UofT community continue to carry this pride and not be burdened by the University's "scarlet letter," as articulated by one of our Faculty of Law colleagues.

Respectfully submitted,

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